

Six o'clock, Friday morning,

I know you'll imagine the pain, my dear Gray,
With which I'm obliged, at this moment, to say,
That your picnic projected, - your budding B. B.
Must blossom and bear all its fruit, without me.
- In a word, - that the day which suits you, is not my day,
But in all its bright beauty - an unlucky Friday.

And yet, with a charity really sublime,
I wish you a Yankee's best wish, - a good time,
And fitly to mourn that I am not with you
I'll give up an hour to Linnaeus too;
And I beg you, when you're by the shores of Spot Pond,
To think of our lovelier Quinsegamond;
With telegraph sympathy, distance can't smother
When you're at the one, - feel that I'm at the other.
I shall try to assuage the regret of that hour's
Strict "Separate System," by triumph in flowers; -
- Remember me thus, - at the moment when calm you are
Gathering lambkill, I have our large Kalinia,
While you break ~~off~~ the white-weeds which
I'll cluster Azaleas, - our own Nudiflora
[thick as you ~~so~~ shave are

You shall lecture on asters - all torn by your nippers,
While I mark the species of three ladies' slippers,
- When, crowned with Mitchella, - you say that its
 "Like that of Limnæa, - like L. Borealis"
Add this with a sigh; - "which is growing where
 Hale is."

But no! - my dear Doctor, it's wholly in vain,
That I thus try to triumph and make you complain.
Your laurels are poor, - but you've those we would
 Crown
My laurels are bright, but I gather alone -
I wish I were with you, - because I can see,
That the far better wish an insane one would be, -
To steal you & your party to be here with me,
Where the grass is more green - and the breezes more free.

I envy you jesters, I envy you simlers,
I envy the host of your hour beguilers,
Nor wonder, dear Fay, when I think that the warden
Of flowers and sweets - of Botanical Garden,

Should succeed - in the spite of a month of bad weather,
In calling such species, so gladly together.

Ever Yours
E. E. Hale -

Dr. Asa Gray.

Harvard University

Cambridge.

